



# City of Beacon

## Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

City Hall  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

### **Agenda**

August 22, 2021 at 9 am

City Hall Classroom  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon NY 12508

Attendees: Superintendent of Streets Michael Manzi, Police Lieutenant Jason Walden, City Administrator Christopher White, Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Carolyn Glauda, Committee Secretary Collin Milone

#### ➤ **Old Business**

1. Washington Ave., and Helen Ct.
2. Willow St. and Verplank Ave.
3. Rt. 52 and Blackburn Ave. / Robert Cahill Dr.
4. Speed limits
5. Main Street Side Streets Parking

#### ➤ **New Business**

1. Main St. and Herbert St.
2. Wilkes St. Speed Hump Request
3. Leonard St. Wrong-Way Drivers
4. North Walnut St. and Church St. Stop Signs Request

#### ➤ **Recommendations**

1. Rombout Ave. and West Center St.
2. Stop Signs on Main St. Corridor Recommendations
3. E. Willow St. and Wilkes St.

➤ **Old Business**

1. Washington Avenue & Helen Ct.

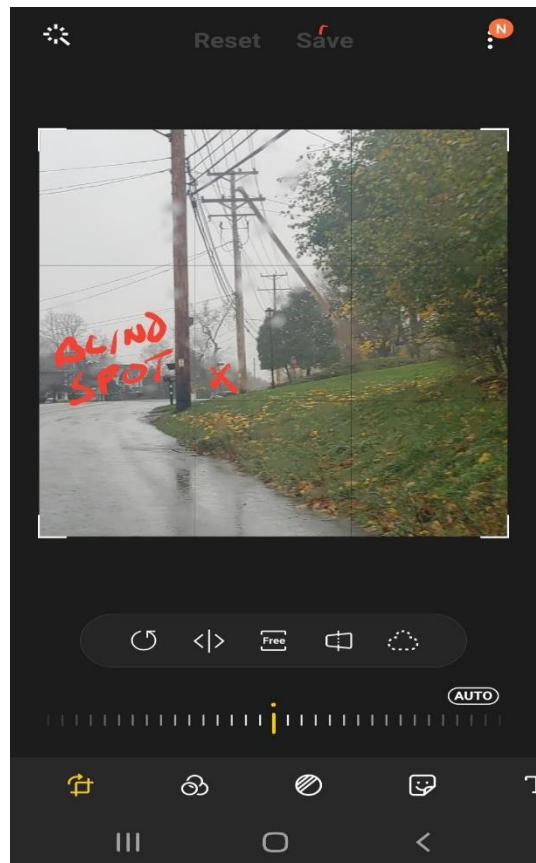
See the message from a resident below:

“The situation at Washington Ave & Helen Ct which is the entrance/exit for Glendale Estates. It is a hazardous blind spot as drivers coming east on Washington Ave round a bend in the road approaching Helen Ct. where residents exit Glendale Estates onto Washington Ave. (see picture below).

There have been several close calls recently and I am hoping to avoid accidents/injuries.....including school busses picking up students!

Is it possible to have a sign/flashing light (see picture below) installed to warn drivers of the blind exit round the bend?

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter. Thank you.”



*January:* The Committee recommended installing a sign warning motorists of the upcoming turn and blind spot. Matt will propose which sign is appropriate at the February meeting.

*February:* Collin will write the recommendation for a flashing sign on Washington Ave in front of 470 approaching the intersection with Helen Ct. Matt Dubetsky will provide the location and sign language. Council will take this up March 29<sup>th</sup>.

*March:* The Committee will reconsider this recommendation.

*April:* Mickey Manzi and Lt. Walden will determine cost and feasibility of flashing sign.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*June:* Mickey Manzi was not able to attend this meeting. He will update the Committee on the cost and feasibility of a flashing sign during the July meeting. He will also work with Matt Dubetsky to determine who owns the bushes near the cemetery.

*August:* The Committee discussed sign options and will review this request again at their next meeting.

## 2. Willow St. and Verplank Ave.

The City received the following correspondence about Willow St and Verplank Ave.:

I am a resident of Ward 1 with sidewalk requests. I have submitted these requests in years prior, hoping that they make it into grant planning and Traffic planning. If it is already in the works, yay.

There is a 4 way stop with a light at Willow and a Verplank, with a triangle of grass/park that has no sidewalk or crosswalk. There is no connection of sidewalks on this block. There is no sidewalk at all at one of the end points of a cross walk from Willow to the other Willows. I have attached photos of these corners.

This intersection is quite busy, as both streets are pass throughs to avoid Main Street, or get to Main Street.

This is a walking route for school children walking to South Avenue in one direction, and to Rombout Middle School, and the High School in the other direction.

People rolling in electric wheels chairs regularly ride in the street. The sidewalks here either don't exist, or are slate and not rollable, or are like mine, concrete, which haven't afforded to be fixed by the homeowner yet. Sidewalks in Beacon are notoriously bumpy or non-existent. Snow mounds or not.

During Halloween night, this intersection is very busy with kids, as East and West Willow are famous destinations for trick or treating as houses go all out. Crossing Verplank this night with little kids is very dangerous.

Additionally, more crosswalks on Verplank between Willow and Mattaewan would be quite useful, as crossing there on foot or wheel chair is very dangerous with the hills and fast traffic. Many families live across the street of Verplank who would like safer access to visit on foot.

Thank you for your consideration in creating sidewalks and crosswalks that increase safety for pedestrians.

*April:* Mickey Manzi will examine widening the apron on the NW corner of Verplank Ave. and Willow St. and will get a quote for a sidewalk and two aprons on the island across the street from St. John' - essentially extending the Willow St. sidewalk.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*June:* Mickey Manzi was not able to attend the June meeting. He will work to get a quote for the installation of a sidewalk on the island in Verplank Avenue in front of St. John's Church.

*August:* The City will add this road to a running list of potential traffic studies.

### 3. Rt. 52 and Blackburn Ave. / Robert Cahill Dr.

See below a message from a resident.

I believe the safety of both pedestrians and turning cars would increase immensely with the addition of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Route 52 and Robert Cahill/Blackburn Avenue (the intersection between Memorial Park and Ron's Ice Cream).

Note from Committee Secretary: The Traffic Committee reviewed this area in May 2020 and decided to place the following pedestrian crossing signs on Rt. 52.



Pedestrian Crossing Ahead sign about 700 feet east of the crosswalk.





*May:* The Committee recommended the following:

- A. Place an In-Street-Yield Sign (MUTCD R1-6) in the crosswalk on Route 52 at Blackburn Avenue. The Superintendent of Streets installed the sign immediately following the meeting. See photo below.



- B. Lieutenant Walden to bring historic crash data at this intersection to the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

*August:* The Committee has decided to remove this from the agenda and reconsider the issue after the road reconstruction project, which is in the planning stages now, is complete for Fishkill Avenue.

#### 4. Speed Limits

May: A resident called into the Traffic Safety Committee Meeting requesting that the Committee recommend 20 MPH speed limits on Main Street and a reduced city-wide speed limit. The Committee will review this request at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Collin will provide information on the process of lowering speed limits.

Please see the message below from Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair.

I would like to submit the following for consideration by the Traffic Safety Committee:

"Reducing the city speed limit to 25mph (it's currently 30mph). This is a move that many cities are making, supported by research. Quote: "a person is about 70 percent more likely to be killed if they're struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph versus 25 mph."

"Extending the 15mph speed limit IN parks to all streets adjacent to parks.

"More speed limit signage where there are gaps, particularly on Main St

"Radars showing speed at the city borders and/or signs asking folks to slow down

Vision Zero would be a good resource for the Traffic Safety Committee if they need it.

See attached a memorandum from the Main Street Access advisory Committee regarding speed limits.

*June:* The Committee did not have time to review this request and will review it in July.

*August:* The Committee decided that the City's incremental steps towards enforcement and newly constructed bump outs along Main Street may be a sufficient solution. A reassessment will take place in the future if necessary.

#### 5. Main Street Side Streets Parking

See memo attached from the Main Street Access Advisory Committee.

*August:* The Committee decided to move forward with the striping proposals.

#### ➤ **New Business**

- 1. Main St. and Herbert St.

A resident stopped into City Hall to request that a No U Turn sign on Main Street at the entrance to Herbert Street. See sample MUTCD r3-4 sign below:



*August:* The Committee decided not to add a No U Turn sign on Main St. at Herbert St. They recommended adding a stop sign on Main Street at Herbert Street.

2. Wilkes St. from Matteawan Rd. to Fishkill Ave. speed hump request letter

See attached the speed hump request letter and the City of Beacon Speed Hump Selection Criteria.

*August:* The Committee denied the speed hump request. The City will add this road to a running list of potential traffic studies.



### 3. Leonard St. Wrong-Way Drivers

See below an email from a resident regarding wrong way drivers on Leonard St.

I don't know if this is the correct department to reach out to, but I am going to email anyway. I live at the Lofts at Beacon Falls on Leonard St. My apartment basically sits at the intersection of Leonard St and Grove St and I have a window that faces Leonard St. Given that I'm in my office (the window that faces Leonard St) much of the day, I have a view of cars driving down the road. I don't have exact numbers, but I see many drivers that are going the wrong way down Leonard St, driving north (towards my building) and then making the (illegal) right turn onto Grove, or seeing the "DO NOT ENTER" signs and then turning around.

I know a second DNE sign was added to Grove St. perhaps last year, so I believe many drivers are seeing this and then turning around. (However, many simply ignore this and continue to the intersection of Grove & Liberty St.) But the signage on Leonard St itself could be better to indicate that it is indeed a one way street. I don't know where the drivers are coming from; my guess it's from the Roundhouse lot (the only other access points to the street are from this complex and across the street are separate churches). When Leonard St. (which is 2 way initially) turns into a 1 way street (at the intersection of Amity St), there only exists 1 DNE sign and I believe it's the only sign until the intersection of Leonard & Grove. There's at least one One Way sign, but that's across from St. John's Church.

Is it possible to have more signs? Perhaps a second sign at the Amity/Leonard St intersection and maybe one mid-way down the road? Thankfully I haven't witnessed any accidents (I'm sure due in part to the 30 mph limit and sharp turn of Leonard/Grove), but I'd imagine it's only a matter of time before something occurs. Thank you for your time!

*August:* The Committee has requested that the Police Department monitor the area.

### 4. North Walnut St. and Church St. Stop Signs Request

I would like to put in a request for a 4-way stop sign at the corner of North Walnut and Church Street.

*August:* The Committee has requested that the Police Department monitor the area.

#### ➤ **Recommendations**

#### 1. Rombout Ave. and W. Center St.

The City received a request from a resident for stop signs on South Ave. at the corners of Rombout Ave. and W. Center St.

*March:* The Police Department will assign a patrol detail at South Ave. and Academy St. and will research previous complaints. Will report back in April.

*April:* The Committee discussed an All-Way Stop intersection. The intersection is essentially two T stops rather than a four-way. Alternate solutions and/or exact stop-sign placement will be discussed during the May meeting.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing two stop signs on South Avenue at the intersection of Rombout Avenue and South Avenue.

## 2. Main St. Corridor Stop Signs

See memo attached.

*April:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this memo; they will take it up during their May meeting.

*May:* The Main Street Access Advisory Committee Chair Stowe Boyd along with Committee Member Theresa Kraft presented a recommendation for stop signs along the Main Street corridor. Their memorandum on the subject can be found attached to the end of these minutes. The Traffic Committee decided to recommend the first phase of the stop sign plan to the City Council.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing stop signs in the following locations:

- A. On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with North Walnut Street
- B. On Church Street on the east and west side of the intersection with North Cedar Street
- C. On Dewindt Street on the east and west side of the intersection with South Cedar Street

## 3. E. Willow St. and Wilkes St.

Please see below a message from Councilmember Nelson.

I'm forwarding an email I received last week from a constituent. He is requesting a stop sign and a crosswalk at the corner of East Willow and Wilkes. He is hoping to get this request to the traffic committee.

I live a block away from this corner and it is indeed hazardous. There are lots of kids who play on East Willow and I've seen many cars speed through, almost hitting the children. It does merit looking into. Thanks.

*April:* The Police Department will set up a traffic detail at E. Willow St. and Wilkes St. to monitor traffic and report back in May.

*May:* The Committee did not have time to discuss this. It will appear on the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

*June:* The Committee recommended installing the following stop signs:

- A. On East Willow Street on the north and south side of the intersection with Wilkes Street
- B. On Wilkes Street at the intersection with East Willow Street